

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 INR-10 CIAE-00 RSC-01

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R 292135 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5667

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 3583

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT VELASCO' S STATE OF HEALTH

REF: LIMA 3515

1. ON MAY 26 PRESIDENT VELASCO' S AIDE CALLED TO REQUEST EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN LOCATION DR. JUAN MONROS, EXPERT IN PROSTHETIC DEVICES AND REHABILITATION TRAINING, WHO WORKS FOR HOWARD RUSK' S WORLD REHABILITATION FUND, INC. DR. MONROS WAS EVENTUALLY LOCATED AND, AT PRESIDENT VELASCO' S REQUEST, WENT TO SEE HIM ON SATURDAY, MAY 26, AND MONDAY, MAY 28. HE WILL BE IN LIMA FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND IS SCHEDULED TO SEE THE PRESIDENT TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK.

2. DR. MONROS CAME TO SEE ME AT MY REQUEST TODAY. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS KNOWN TO THE PERUVIAN MILITARY BECAUSE OF HIS WORK IN SETTING UP A PROSTHETIC AND REHABILITATION CENTER TEN YEARS AGO AT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL. DOCTOR RUSK' S ORGANIZATION, THROUGH DR. MONROS, HAD PROVIDED THE TRAINING FOR THE PERUVIAN TECHNICIANS WHO HAVE PREPARED THE ARTIFICIAL LEG FOR VELASCO. HE HAS ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT THESE DEVICES INCORPORATE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD BASED ON OUR UNHAPPY VIET NAM EXPERIENCE AND NOTHING BETTER IS AVAILABLE ANYWHERE OUTSIDE PERU. APPARENTLY THE ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE DEVICES WERE OBTAINED BY MONROS AND SENT THROUGH THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY TO LIMA.

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3. DR. MONROS SAYS THAT THE THREE ARTIFICIAL LEGS SENT DOWN FROM CUBA ARE WORTHLESS AND THAT IT WAS ABOUT THESE DEVICES THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN COMPLAINING. HE SAID THAT THE REMAINING CUBAN DOCTOR HAS SET UP A REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR VELASCO BUT THAT, AS A RESULT OF MONROS' RECOMMENDATIONS, THIS HAD BEEN MODIFIED SOMEWHAT AND HE FELT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD MAKE FASTER PROGRESS.

4. I TOLD DR. MONROS OF SECRETARY ROGERS' OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM WALTER REED IN THE EVENT ANY SUCH HELP WAS DESIRED. DR. MONROS SAID HE THOUGHT THAT PROBABLY NO REQUEST WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN VIEW OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND HIS PRESENCE HERE.

MONROS OBSERVATIONS OF VELASCO' S GENERAL HEALTH ARE IN LINE WITH MINE, AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT HE FELT THE PRESEIDENT WAS PUSHING HIMSELF AND THAT HE EXPECTED TOO MUCH IN THE WAY OF RESULTS IN SO SHORT A TIME SINCE THE AMPUTATION AND HIS HEART SURGERY. BECAUSE OF HIS CONCENTRATION ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT SPENDING SUFFICIENT TIME ON HIS REHABILITATION EXERCISES. HE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS DETERMINED TO ATTEND THE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG CEREMONY JUNE 7 AND THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO DO SO WITHOUT THE NEED TO USE A CANE. DR. MONROS SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN BEFORE HE LEFT IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AND WOULD GIVE ME A FURTHER PROGRESS REPORT.

BELCHER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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